

June 3, 2020



## **Independence Day Parade canceled but Parma Patriotic Pride promoted for July 4th**

After much consideration, the City of Parma is canceling its Independence Day Parade, which was scheduled for July 4. The parade sponsor We Are Parma Proud agrees with this decision.

The annual event always attracts a large crowd along the 1.5 mile parade route. With 1,500 participants and thousands of spectators expected to line Ridge Road, practicing social distancing and following state-required COVID safety guidelines would be impossible.

Although the city cannot host a parade, everyone can still celebrate in patriotic fashion. The city, in coordination with We Are Parma Proud, wants residents to participate in **Parma Patriotic Pride**, which will be co-chaired by councilwomen Kristin Saban and Debbie Lime. Now more than ever, it is important for residents to show their pride and patriotism as the country continues to deal with the pandemic.

Instead of decorating a float or vehicle for the parade, residents are encouraged to decorate their homes, lawns and driveways. Past parades have showcased Parma residents' impressive creative skills, so imagine what residents can create in their own front yards.

Similar to the holiday lighting competition, the city will promote Parma Patriotic Pride online and invite people to drive through neighborhoods and along streets where homeowners have decked out their homes and yards for the July 4th holiday.

### **When is it?**

Residents who wish to participate should have their decorations on display by or on Saturday, July 4.

### **Is it a competition?**

The displays will not be judged, but participants can be entered in a random drawing to win a \$250 Visa gift card. The lucky winner will be announced on Monday, July 6.

### **How does a homeowner participate?**

Participants should take photos of their decorated homes or lawns and post the photos and their street names on Facebook and/or Twitter using the hashtag **#Parma4th**. Please tag the city *@CityofParma* or Twitter *@ParmaMayor*. The posts should be public in order for everyone to see the images. The city will also share the photos. **For those who want to enter the random drawing**, please send photos of your decorated homes or yards to [ckovach@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:ckovach@cityofparma-oh.gov). If outdoor lights are part of the display, consider also sending a photograph taken at night.